

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending.

Claims 1-16 and 20 are rejected. Claims 17-19 and 21 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Amendment to the Specification

The title has been amended to a new title that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Drawing Amendments

Applicant has enclosed Replacement drawing sheets for Figures 1A and 1B, which have been amended to include the label “Prior Art” as suggested by the Examiner.

Applicant has also enclosed Replacement drawing sheets for Figures 3 and 11, which have been amended to include the omitted reference signs mentioned in the description.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 2-6, 8-12, and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Dependent claims 2-3, 8-9, and 14-15 have been cancelled in this Response. The remaining claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, have been amended to overcome the bases for rejection identified by Examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 5-7, 11-13, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,304,250 issued to Yang et al. (“Yang”). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Specifically, Applicant submits that the rejection of independent claims 1, 7, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Yang is improper, since the Yang reference fails to teach all of the limitations recited in the

aforementioned independent claims. Independent claims 1, 7, and 13 each recite that at least one row in the switch matrix transitions from a first state to a second and that the row is forced “back to said first state thereby decreasing the scanning interval for detecting row transitions.” This limitation is not taught by the Yang reference. Therefore, the Yang reference does not anticipate independent claims 1, 7, and 13, and these claims are allowable. Dependent claims 5-6, 11-12 and 20 are also allowable as being dependent from an allowable independent claim for the reasons discussed above.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2-4, 8-10, and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yang in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,178,527 issued to Vidales (referred to herein as “Vidales”). As discussed hereinabove, dependent claims 2-3, 8-9, and 14-15 have been cancelled in this Response. Dependent claims 4, 10, and 16, as amended, remain in issue. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 4, 10 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Applicant submits that each of these claims is allowable as being dependent from an allowable independent claim for the reasons set forth above with regard to the failure of the Yang reference to teach the limitations relating to the row transitions as recited in independent claims 1, 7 and 13. The Vidales reference fails to supply the teachings that are missing in the Yang reference and, therefore, the rejection of dependent claims 4, 10 and 16 is improper and should be withdrawn.



CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant requests that a Notice of Allowance be issued. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at 512-338-9100.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on August 12, 2005.

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August 12, 2005

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Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,

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